

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 through 63 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

~~display to each particular user of a plurality of users, in response to a upon each user's request by the particular user to ship a particular respective package, a simultaneous preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, said simultaneous preview of shipping rates comprising a carrier-specific service-specific shipping rate for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship the particular respective package according to a set of package specifications for the particular respective package, wherein each particular user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each respective client computer device user having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

~~calculate for each particular user of a plurality of users, [upon] in response to a request by the particular user[each user's request]to ship a particular respective parcel, calculate a shipping rate for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers, said shipping rate for shipping [a]the particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel~~

characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier, according to a set of pricing rules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier, according to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to an origin zip code and a destination zip code, wherein each user of the plurality of users accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network.

3. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

determine for each particular user of a plurality of users,[upon] in response to a request by the particular user each user's request to ship a particular respective parcel, determine a cross-comparison delivery rate schedule preview, said cross-comparison delivery rate schedule preview comprising a shipping rate, a delivery date and a delivery time for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers for shipping [a]the particular respective parcel, said shipping rate, delivery date and delivery time determined according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules and to a set of delivery schedules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier according to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to an origin postal code and a destination postal code, wherein each user of the plurality of users accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer system for displaying to each particular user of a plurality of users[upon], in response to a request by each particular user to ship a particular respective package,each user's request a preview of shipping

rates for the particular user to ship [a]the particular respective package, wherein each particular user of the plurality of users remotely accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device is communicatively connected having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer system programmed to:

calculate, for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers, a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel respective package according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective package parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

generate an online cross-comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the respective client computer device of the particular user.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 4, said computer system programmed to:

determine a delivery schedule for each delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcelrespective package.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein the generated online cross-comparison display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the delivery services for delivering the particular respective package.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a plurality of parcel[s] to be shipped by [one]each respective user of a plurality of users according to a plurality of carriers, wherein each user

accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each respective[user] client computer device ~~having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected~~ to the global communications network, said computer system programmed to:

collect as parcel specifications for a particular respective parcel, a user input from one particular respective user of the plurality of users wherein said user input comprises[ing] at least one of: a package type, package dimensions, a package weight, and a value of the particular respective parcel;

collect from the particular respective user a user input of an origin zip code and ~~an exemplary~~ destination zip code; and

generate an online comparison display, to a display monitor configured with the [user]respective client computer device of the particular respective user, the online comparison display comprising a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of delivery services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective parcel, wherein said preview of shipping rates ~~are~~ is calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each respective delivery service of the plurality of services offered by each particular respective carrier as applied to the parcel specifications and as applied to the origin zip code and the ~~exemplary~~ destination zip code.

8. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

compare each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship a particular parcel having particular parcel specifications with a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel with each other delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship the particular parcel.

9. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of

Claim 8, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:
determine the delivery service and the carrier that offer [the]a lowest
shipping rate.

10. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 9, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:
generate a report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the
lowest shipping rate.

11. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 10 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the
lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

12. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 10 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the
lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

13. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 10 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a graphic
representation of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest
shipping rate and of the lowest shipping rate.

14. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 10 wherein said report comprises an audible announcement of the name
of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of
the lowest shipping rate.

15. (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said
shipping management computer system programmed to:
compare each delivery schedule for ~~shipping a particular parcel with each~~
~~delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a~~
~~plurality of carriers to ship a particular parcel having particular parcel~~

specifications with a delivery schedule for shipping the particular parcel ~~with via~~
each other ~~delivery service of the plurality of services offered by each carrier of a~~
~~plurality of carriers.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 15, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:
determine the delivery service and the carrier that offer [the]an earliest
delivery schedule.

17. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 16, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:
generate a report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the
earliest delivery schedule.

18. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 17 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the
earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

19. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 17 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the
earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

20. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 17 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a graphic
representation of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest
delivery schedule and of the earliest delivery schedule.

21. (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of
Claim 17 wherein said report comprises an audible announcement of the name
of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule and
of the earliest delivery schedule.

22. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of ~~packages~~~~parcels~~ shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

displaying to each particular user of a plurality of users, in response to a request by the particular user to ship a particular respective package, a simultaneous preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, said simultaneous preview of shipping rates comprising a carrier-specific service-specific shipping rate for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship the particular respective package according to a set of package specifications for the particular respective package, wherein each particular user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each respective client computer device [user] having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network.

23. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

calculating for each particular user of a plurality of users, [upon] in response to a request by the particular user[each user's request]to ship a particular respective parcel, calculating a shipping rate for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers, said shipping rate for shipping [a]the particular respective parcel calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier, according to a set of pricing rules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier, according to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to an origin zip code and a destination zip code, wherein each user of the plurality of users accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global

communications network.

24. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the method comprising:

~~determining for each particular user of a plurality of users, [upon] in response to a request by the particular user each user's request to ship a particular respective parcel, determining a cross-comparison delivery rate schedule preview, said cross-comparison delivery rate schedule preview comprising a shipping rate, a delivery date and a delivery time for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers for shipping [a]the particular respective parcel, said shipping rate, delivery date and delivery time determined according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules and to a set of delivery schedules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier according to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to an origin postal code and a destination postal code, wherein each user of the plurality of users accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network.~~

25. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for displaying to each particular user of a plurality of users[upon], in response to a request by each particular user to ship a particular respective package, each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship [a]the particular respective package, wherein each particular user of the plurality of users remotely accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device is communicatively connected having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said method

comprising:

calculating, for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers, a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcelrespective package according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective package parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

generating an online cross-comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the respective client computer device of the particular user.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, said method further comprising:

determining a delivery schedule for each delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective packageparcel.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 26 wherein the generated online cross-comparison display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the delivery services for delivering the particular respective package.

28. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a plurality of parcel[s] to be shipped by [one]each respective user of a plurality of users according to a plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each respective [user] client computer device having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network, said method comprising:

collecting as parcel specifications for a particular respective parcel, a user input from one particular respective user of the plurality of users wherein said user input comprises[ing] at least one of: a package type, package dimensions, a package weight, and a value of the particular respective parcel;

collecting from the particular respective user a user input of an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code; and

generating an online comparison display, to a display monitor configured with the [user]respective client computer device of the particular respective user, the online comparison display comprising a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of delivery services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective parcel, wherein said preview of shipping rates are calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each respective delivery service of the plurality of services offered by each particular respective carrier as applied to the parcel specifications and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary destination zip code.

29. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the method comprising:

comparing each shipping rate for ~~shipping a particular parcel with each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship a particular parcel having particular parcel specifications with a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel with each other delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship the particular parcel.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 29, said method further comprising:

determining the delivery service and the carrier that offer [the]a lowest shipping rate.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 30, said method further comprising:

generating a report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of the lowest shipping rate.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises an audible announcement of the name of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of the lowest shipping rate.

36. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the method comprising:

comparing each delivery schedule for ~~shipping a particular parcel with each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship a particular parcel having particular parcel specifications with a delivery schedule for shipping the particular parcel with via each other delivery service of the plurality of services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers~~.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, said method further

comprising:

determining the delivery service and the carrier that offer [the]an earliest delivery schedule:

38. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 37, said method further comprising:

generating a report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule and of the earliest delivery schedule.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises an audible announcement of the name of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule and of the earliest delivery schedule.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer

system, would cause the computer system to display[ing] to each particular user of a plurality of users, in response to a upon each user's request by the particular user to ship a particular respective package, a simultaneous preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, said simultaneous preview of shipping rates comprising a carrier-specific service-specific shipping rate for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship the particular respective package according to a set of package specifications for the particular respective package, wherein each particular user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each respective client computer device [user] having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to calculate[ing], for each particular user of a plurality of users, [upon] in response to a request by the particular user[each user's request]to ship a particular respective parcel, a shipping rate for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers, said shipping rate for shipping [a]the particular respective parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier, according to a set of pricing rules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier, according to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to an origin zip code and a destination zip code, wherein each user of the plurality of users accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global

communications network.

45. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to determine[ing], for each particular user of a plurality of users, [upon] in response to a request by the particular user each user's request to ship a particular respective parcel, a cross-comparison delivery rate schedule preview, said cross-comparison delivery rate schedule preview comprising a shipping rate, a delivery date and a delivery time for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers for shipping [a]the particular respective parcel, said shipping rate, delivery date and delivery time determined according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules and to a set of delivery schedules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier according to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to an origin postal code and a destination postal code, wherein each user of the plurality of users accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected to the global communications network.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for displaying to each particular user of a plurality of users[upon], in response to a request by each particular user to ship a particular respective package, each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship [a]the particular respective package, wherein each particular user of the plurality of users remotely accesses the computer system over a global communications network

using a respective client computer device, and wherein each [user]respective client computer device is communicatively connected having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to calculate[ing], for each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers, a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel respective package according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each particular delivery service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications for the particular respective package parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to generate[ing] an online cross-comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the respective client computer device of the particular user.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 46, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to determine[ing] a delivery schedule for each delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective package parcel.

48. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 47 wherein the generated online cross- comparison display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the delivery services for delivering the particular respective package.

49. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a plurality of parcel[s] to be shipped by [one]each respective user of a plurality of users according to a plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective client computer device, and wherein each respective [user] client computer device ~~having an individual electronic connection is communicatively connected~~ to the global communications network, said computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions ~~for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to collect[ing]~~ as parcel specifications for a particular respective parcel, a user input from one particular respective user of the plurality of users wherein said user input comprises~~[ing]~~ at least one of: a package type, package dimensions, a package weight, and a value of the particular respective parcel;

a set of program instructions ~~for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to collect[ing]~~ from the particular respective user a user input of an origin zip code and ~~an exemplary~~ a destination zip code; and

a set of program instructions ~~for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to generate[ing]~~ an online comparison display, to a display monitor configured with the ~~[user]~~respective client computer device of the particular respective user, the online comparison display comprising a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of delivery services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular respective parcel, wherein said preview of shipping rates ~~are~~is calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each respective delivery service of the plurality of services offered by each particular respective carrier as applied to the parcel specifications and as applied to the origin zip code and the ~~exemplary~~ destination zip code.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to compare[ing] each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship a particular parcel having particular parcel specifications with a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel with each other delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship the particular parcel.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 50, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to determine[ing] the delivery service and the carrier that offer [the]a lowest shipping rate.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 51, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to generate[ing] a report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

54. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

55. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of the lowest shipping rate.

56. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises an audible announcement of the name of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of the lowest shipping rate.

57. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to compare[ing] each delivery schedule for shipping a particular parcel with each delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers to ship a particular parcel having particular parcel specifications with a delivery schedule for shipping the particular parcel with via each other delivery service of the plurality of services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers.

58. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 57, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for that when executed by the computer system, would cause the computer system to determine[ing] the delivery service and the carrier that offer [the]an earliest delivery schedule.

59. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 58, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions that when executed by the computer system,
would cause the computer system to generate[ing] a report of the delivery
service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.

60. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

61. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

62. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule and of the earliest delivery schedule.

63. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises an audible announcement of the name of the delivery service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule and of the earliest delivery schedule.